



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2021-0845; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00651-T; Amendment 39-21929; AD 2022-03-12]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus SAS Model A330-200, -300, -800, and -900 series airplanes; and Model A340-200, -300, -500, and -600 series airplanes. This AD was prompted by reports that the instructions on the doghouse door lock placard are unclear and incomplete. This AD requires replacing the placard with an improved instruction placard, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference. This AD also prohibits the installation of affected parts under certain conditions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** For material incorporated by reference (IBR) in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); Internet [www.easa.europa.eu](http://www.easa.europa.eu). You may find this IBR material on

the EASA website at <https://ad.easa.europa.eu>. You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. It is also available in the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0845.

### **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0845; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vladimir Ulyanov, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3229; email [vladimir.ulyanov@faa.gov](mailto:vladimir.ulyanov@faa.gov).

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2021-0136, dated June 4, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0136) (also referred to as the MCAI), to correct an unsafe condition for all Airbus SAS A330-201, A330-202, A330-203, A330-223, A330-243, A330-301, A330-302, A330-303, A330-321, A330-322, A330-323, A330-341, A330-342, A330-343, A330-841, A330-941, A340-211, A340-212, A340-213, A340-311, A340-312, A340-313, A340-541, A340-542, A340-642, and A340-643 airplanes. Model A340-542

and A340-643 airplanes are not certificated by the FAA and are not included on the U.S. type certificate data sheet; this AD therefore does not include those airplanes in the applicability.

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus SAS Model A330-200, -300, -800, and -900 series airplanes; and Model A340-200, -300, -500, and -600 series airplanes. The NPRM published in the *Federal Register* on October 7, 2021 (86 FR 55747). The NPRM was prompted by reports that the instructions on the doghouse door lock placard are unclear and incomplete. The NPRM proposed replacing the placard with an improved instruction placard, as specified in EASA AD 2021-0136. The NPRM also proposed to prohibit the installation of affected parts under certain conditions.

The FAA is issuing this AD to address possible incorrect operation of the doghouse door lock due to unclear and incomplete handling instructions on the door placard installed near the lock. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to failure of the latch, which could block the door in the closed position and prevent access to the emergency equipment inside the doghouse. See the MCAI for additional background information.

## **Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive**

### **Comments**

The FAA received comments from the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA) who supported the NPRM without change.

The FAA received an additional comment from Delta Air Lines (DAL). The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response.

### **Request for Exception to Required Part**

DAL requested an exception to allow the use of internally manufactured placards having the same text and font size as the Diehl placard, part number (P/N) 1500500-

00C844, specified in the Diehl Aviation service information referenced in EASA AD 2021-0136. DAL stated that if one of the installed Diehl placards were missing or damaged, alternate placard sources may be able to provide replacements faster while maintaining an acceptable level of safety.

The FAA does not agree with the requested exception. This AD mandates the use of a placard, P/N 1500500-00C844, specified in the Diehl Aviation service information. Operators may request to use an alternate placard through the alternative method of compliance (AMOC) process specified in the provisions of paragraph (i)(1) of this AD. Operators should provide justification that such an alternate placard meets all airworthiness requirements, not only that the placard would have the same text and font size. This AD has not been changed with regard to this request.

## **Conclusion**

The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered the comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

## **Related Service Information under 1 CFR Part 51**

EASA AD 2021-0136 specifies procedures for replacing the instruction placard on the passenger cabin doghouse door. EASA AD 2021-0136 also prohibits the installation of doghouses with incorrect instruction placards.

This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

## **Costs of Compliance**

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 62 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

**Estimated costs for required actions**

<b>Labor cost</b>	<b>Parts cost</b>	<b>Cost per product</b>	<b>Cost on U.S. operators</b>
2 work-hours X \$85 per hour = \$170	Up to \$95 per placard	Up to \$265 per placard	Up to \$16,430*

\*Assuming one placard per product. The number of placards on an airplane depends on the passenger configuration and varies from operator to operator.

**Authority for this Rulemaking**

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA’s authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency’s authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

**Regulatory Findings**

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

(1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

### **List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39**

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

### **The Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

### **PART 39 - AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### **§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**2022-03-12 Airbus SAS:** Amendment 39-21929; Docket No. FAA-2021-0845; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00651-T.

#### **(a) Effective Date**

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

#### **(b) Affected ADs**

None.

#### **(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to all Airbus SAS airplanes, certificated in any category, as identified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (8) of this AD.

(1) Model A330-201, -202, -203, -223, and -243 airplanes.

(2) Model A330-301, -302, -303, -321, -322, -323, -341, -342, and -343 airplanes.

(3) Model A330-841 airplanes.

- (4) Model A330-941 airplanes.
- (5) Model A340-211, -212, and -213 airplanes.
- (6) Model A340-311, -312, and -313 airplanes.
- (7) Model A340-541 airplanes.
- (8) Model A340-642 airplanes.

**(d) Subject**

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 25, Equipment/furnishings.

**(e) Unsafe Condition**

This AD was prompted by reports that the instructions on the doghouse door lock placard are unclear and incomplete. The FAA is issuing this AD to address possible incorrect operation of the doghouse door lock due to unclear and incomplete handling instructions on the door placard installed near the lock. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to failure of the latch, which could block the door in the closed position and prevent access to the emergency equipment inside the doghouse.

**(f) Compliance**

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

**(g) Requirements**

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0136, dated June 4, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0136).

**(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2021-0136**

(1) Where EASA AD 2021-0136 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Although EASA AD 2021-0136 specifies to “remove the placard and install an improved handling instructions placard on each affected part,” this AD requires

replacing the placard on each affected part with an improved handling instructions placard.

(3) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2021-0136 does not apply to this AD.

**(i) Additional AD Provisions**

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)*: The Manager, Large Aircraft Section, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the Large Aircraft Section, International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (j) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer*: For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, Large Aircraft Section, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus SAS’s EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(3) *Required for Compliance (RC)*: Except as required by paragraph (i)(2) of this AD, if any service information contains procedures or tests that are identified as RC, those procedures and tests must be done to comply with this AD; any procedures or tests that are not identified as RC are recommended. Those procedures and tests that are not identified as RC may be deviated from using accepted methods in accordance with the operator’s maintenance or inspection program without obtaining approval of an AMOC,



provided the procedures and tests identified as RC can be done and the airplane can be put back in an airworthy condition. Any substitutions or changes to procedures or tests identified as RC require approval of an AMOC.

**(j) Related Information**

For more information about this AD, contact Vladimir Ulyanov, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3229; email [vladimir.ulyanov@faa.gov](mailto:vladimir.ulyanov@faa.gov).

**(k) Material Incorporated by Reference**

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0136, dated June 4, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2021-0136, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); Internet [www.easa.europa.eu](http://www.easa.europa.eu). You may find this EASA AD on the EASA website at <https://ad.easa.europa.eu>.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(5) You may view this material that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this

material at NARA, email [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov), or go to:

<https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued on January 24, 2022.

Lance T. Gant, Director,  
Compliance & Airworthiness Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service.

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